

Ms. Johnson

Title and Author

Seven Daughters and Seven Sons Barbara Cohen and Bahija Lovejoy

Plot Summary

This is an Iraqi folktale about Buran, the daughter of a poor merchant. Because she is a woman in a traditional society, she cannot work to help earn money for her family. When her father becomes ill and can no longer earn money for the family, Buran comes up with an idea to help her family that breaks all tradition.

Plot High Point

The most exciting part of the book is when Buran must reveal who she really is to Mahmud, a prince that has befriended her thinking she was a man. Because she has deceived him and thinks he won't be able to forgive her, she decides to return home to Baghdad.

Main Characters

Buran is the main character. She is the fourth daughter out of seven in her family. She is very smart and very brave to accomplish the things that she does in the book. She leaves home and pretends to be a man in order to open a business and earn money for her family. Abu Al-Baanat is Buran's father. He is a very kind-hearted shopkeeper that taught Buran how to read and write and play chess because she was so smart. Jihha is a very rich but greedy merchant who hires Buran in a caravan to Tyre. He is very harsh with Buran at first until he realizes how smart and industrious she is. He actually gives her the money to start her business. Mahmud is the Prince of Tyre. He meets Buran, who is known as Nasir, when she comes to Tyre from Baghdad. He is inexplicably attracted to Nasir but is confused by his feelings because he doesn't know Nasir is really Buran. Amin and Uthman are Mahmud's friends, but they become jealous of Nasir friendship with Mahmud.

Setting

The book is set in many places throughout the Middle East. It starts in Baghdad and moves to Tyre. It ends again in Baghdad.

Personal Opinion

I thoroughly enjoyed the book because of the themes about family, breaking tradition and being able to succeed through hard work and imagination. My favorite part of the book was the end when Buran brought justice to her arrogant and self-seeking cousins and honor to her family.

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